

## IMPORTANCE AND ROLE OF MULTI-FUNCTIONALITY IN POND FISH FARMING IN HUNGARY

### A MULTI-FUNKCIONALITÁS SZEREPE ÉS JELENTŐSÉGE A MAGYARORSZÁGI HALTERMELÉSBEN

BÉKEFI EMESE<sup>1</sup> – VÁRADI LÁSZLÓ<sup>1</sup> – GYALOG GERGŐ<sup>1</sup> – SZÜCS ISTVÁN<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Halászati és Öntözési Kutatóintézet  
5540 Szarvas, Anna-liget 8.

<sup>2</sup>Debreceni Egyetem Agrár- és Műszaki Tudományok Centruma, AVK  
4032 Debrecen, Böszörményi út 138.  
[bekefi.emese@haki.hu](mailto:bekefi.emese@haki.hu)

Pond fish farms, which are a part of the rural economy, also function as valuable aquatic habitat, play an important role in water and landscape management, provide services for various recreational activities, and contribute to the preservation of the cultural heritage. The majority of the pond farms in Hungary do not meet all the basic functions of multi-functionality, but the number of pond farms attempting to utilize all aspects of multi-functionality at the enterprise level is expected to grow in the future. The experiences with the operation of multi-functional fish farms clearly showed that the diversification of activities could be a promising alternative during the development of sustainable pond fish farming in Hungary. There is a need however for better understanding of the specificities of multi-functional pond fish farming and the inter-linkages between various functions which requires well-defined research programs. There is also need for appropriate regulation which should include compensation for damages caused by protected animals, appropriate support for ecological services and appropriate water charges. Multi-functional pond fish farms can contribute significantly to the improvement of rural livelihood and the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversification if the social and environmental benefits of multi-functional pond fish farms are well acknowledged and supported.

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